

Abstracts



The Naturalist Johann Wilhelm Helfer (1810-1840) and South Asia. Patronage, Career, Conflict.

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The Bohemian naturalist J. W. Helfer and his Prussian wife took part in the Euphrates Expedition in 1836, before they ended up in India without any papers. There they successfully tried to build up networks and undertook further expeditions to Tenasserim on behalf of the British EIC. Helfer can be seen as an example for the many Germans working in service of European colonial powers to seek a career. Using a global micro-history approach the talk will deal with the prehistory of Helfer's journeys. It will try to reconstruct his motivations in the context of the general circumstances of German naturalists. Subsequently, their attempts to integrate into the local research community will be dealt with. The patronage from India and Germany was an important factor. Finally, rivalries arising in Europe and India have to be addressed. The example of Helfer serves to examine the participation of German naturalists in British colonialism.

Salt Technologies in India past and present

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Salt has been produced in India since ancient times. In the 19th century its manufacture was taken over by the British, who set up a complex system of controls and extracted revenue via the salt tax. After independence in 1947, the Government of India reorganised the industry, licensing out production to large corporations. Although salt is a potent symbol of Indian history – most famously through Gandhi's Salt March of 1930 – little is actually known about how it was manufactured, by whom and where, and how it has been traded and consumed across the last 250 years. This paper describes a research project that I am leading with Indian colleagues: an interactive *Salt Map of India* describing the changing technologies of salt production.

*Dancing to Hymns: A Choreographed Masculinity and
Purjosh Wagah*

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The gate of Wagah is not only a way to cross the border between India and Pakistan but also a gate of memories. This border has a unique choreographed ritual every day before sunset. Firstly, I will discourse why a choreographic study is significant in my research project. Secondly, I will discuss the nature of the Wagah border as a space. The emphasis on space allows us to explore the possibilities existing in No man's land. Thirdly, it will be analysed how national cosmology is performed in this theatre. The ontology of nation with reference to Pakistan and India cannot be grasped without the category of Josh. Lastly, the interpretive framework of choreography will be discussed through language game and performativity and choreographed masculinity will be deciphered by movements, expressions, symbols and utterances of performers at Purjosh Wagah.

*Gender Quota and Pro-Women Legislation in
Parliament of Pakistan*

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The study aims to explore the relationship between the increasing number of female legislators in the parliament of Pakistan and their impact on the political representation of 'women's interests' in parliamentary processes (debates on draft bills / legal initiatives either as private member bill or government bill) and legislative outcomes. For this purpose, I employ a qualitative analysis of semi-structured interviews with female legislators along with an in-depth analysis of the proceedings of three legislative periods 12th (2002-07), 13th (2008-13), and 14th (2013-18).